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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/704,467	10/31/2000	Charles P. Roth	10559-286001	5582
20985	7590	05/06/2005	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, PC 12390 EL CAMINO REAL SAN DIEGO, CA 92130-2081			LI, AIMEE J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2183	

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/704,467

Applicant(s)

ROTH ET AL.

Examiner

Aimee J. Li

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-9,11-16,18-21 and 23-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5-9, 11-16, 18-21, and 23-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 30 March 2005.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-16, 18-21, and 23-31 have been considered. Claims 9 and 21 have been amended as per Applicant's request.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 9, 15, 16, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being taught by Deao et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,970,241 (herein referred to as Deao).

4. Referring to claim 9, Deao has taught a method of providing instructions to a processor, the method comprising:

- a. Loading a plurality of instructions into an emulation instruction register (Deao column 8, lines 28-37 and Figure 1). In regards to Deao, the program memory, element 23 in Figure 1, contains the instructions and, as stated by Deao, it is a design choice for location and type, i.e. registers or cache.
- b. Receiving a run-test idle state signal (Deao column 5, lines 12-38);
- c. Providing the plurality of instructions to the processor in response to the receipt of the run-test idle state signal (Deao column 7, line 65 to column 8, line 21 and Figure 1); and
- d. Processing the plurality of instructions without receiving another run-test idle state signal (Deao column 5, lines 12-38).

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5. Referring to claim 16, Deao has taught a processor comprising:
 - a. A test interface (Deao Abstract; column 4, lines 42-62; column 7, lines 49-51; column 8, lines 22-27; and Figure 1);
 - b. An emulation instruction register adapted to store a plurality of emulation instructions received from the test interface (Deao Abstract; column 4, lines 42-62; column 7, lines 49-51; column 8, lines 22-37 and Figure 1). In regards to Deao, the program memory, element 23 in Figure 1, contains the instructions and, as stated by Deao, it is a design choice for location and type, i.e. registers or cache.
 - c. Emulation control logic adapted to control a flow of the plurality of emulation instructions to a processor pipeline following detection of a single run-test idle state (Deao column 5, lines 12-38); and
 - d. A decoder to receive the plurality of instructions for processing (Deao column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; and Figure 11).
6. Referring to claims 15 and 20, Deao has taught providing the plurality of instructions to a digital signal processor (Deao column 15, lines 28-51; column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; Figure 9; and Figure 11).
7. Referring to claim 21, Deao has taught an apparatus, including operating instructions residing on a machine-readable storage medium, for use in a device to handle a plurality of emulation instructions, the operating instructions causing the device to:
 - a. Load the plurality of emulation instructions into a single emulation instruction register (Deao column 8, lines 28-37 and Figure 1). In regards to Deao, the

program memory, element 23 in Figure 1, contains the instructions and, as stated by Deao, it is a design choice for location and type, i.e. registers or cache.

- b. Enter a run-test idle state (Deao column 5, lines 12-38);
 - c. Provide the plurality of emulation instructions to a processor in response to entry into the run-test idle state (Deao column 15, lines 28-51; column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; Figure 9; and Figure 11); and
 - d. Process the plurality of emulation instructions (Deao column 15, lines 28-51; column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; Figure 9; and Figure 11).
8. Referring to claim 24, Deao has taught scanning instructions from an in-circuit emulator (ICE) to the test interface, the test interface comprising a Joint Test Action Group (JTAG) interface (Deao Abstract; column 4, lines 11-18 and 42-62; column 7, lines 49-51; column 8, lines 22-27; column 54, lines 25-38; Figure 1; and Figure 35).
9. Referring to claim 26, Deao has taught wherein the emulation_instruction register comprises first and second registers (Deao Abstract; column 4, lines 42-62; column 7, lines 49-51; column 8, lines 22-37 and Figure 1). In regards to Deao, the program memory, element 23 in Figure 1, contains the instructions and, as stated by Deao, it is a design choice for location and type, i.e. registers or cache.
10. Referring to claim 27, Deao has taught wherein the emulation control logic comprises a state machine (Deao column 37, lines 39-53 and Figure 22).
11. Referring to claim 29, Deao has taught an in-circuit emulator to monitor operations of the processor (Deao column 3, line 53 to column 4, line 41 and column 8, lines 18-27).

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12. Referring to claim 30, Deao has taught executing at least one of the plurality of instructions to monitor operation of the processor (Deao column 3, line 53 to column 4, line 41 and column 8, lines 18-27).

13. Referring to claim 31, Deao has taught performing a debugging operation using the first and second instructions (Deao column 3, line 53 to column 4, line 41 and column 8, lines 18-27).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 1-8, 11-15, 18-19, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deao et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,970,241 (herein referred to as Deao) in view of O'Connor, U.S. Patent Number 5,848,288 (herein referred to as O'Connor).

16. Referring to claim 1, Deao has taught a method comprising:

- a. Receiving a plurality of instructions from a test interface (Deao Abstract; column 4, lines 42-62; column 7, lines 49-51; column 8, lines 22-27; and Figure 1);
- b. Loading the plurality of instructions into an emulation instruction register (Deao column 8, lines 28-37 and Figure 1). In regards to Deao, the program memory, element 23 in Figure 1, contains the instructions and, as stated by Deao, it is a design choice for location and type, i.e. registers or cache.
- c. Receiving a plurality of instructions from the emulation instruction register (Deao column 7, line 65 to column 8, line 21 and Figure 1);

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- d. Determining a validity of a first instruction of the plurality of instructions (Deao column 15, lines 28-51 and Figure 9). In regards to Deao, the instruction is only valid when it is 8 instructions wide.
 - e. Providing the first instruction to a decoder of the processor if the first instruction is valid (Deao column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; and Figure 11);
 - f. Without receiving a run-test idle state signal, determining a validity of a second instruction of the plurality of instructions (Deao column 15, lines 28-51; column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; Figure 9; and Figure 11). In regards to Deao, the instruction is only valid when it is 8 instructions wide.
 - g. Providing the second instruction to the decoder if the second instruction is valid (Deao column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; and Figure 11).
17. Deao has not explicitly taught determining a validity of an instruction of the plurality of instructions by reading width bits in the instruction. However, Deao has taught that there must be eight instructions in a fetch packet for the VLIW instructions to match the eight instruction units (Deao column 15, lines 28-51 and Figure 9). O'Connor has taught checking the validity of a VLIW instruction by looking for a bit indicating the end of a VLIW instruction (O'Connor Abstract; column 2, line 6-19; column 2, line 53 to column 3, line 9; and Figure 1). In regards to O'Connor, the end of bundle bits are like the width bits, since it shows when the VLIW instruction has reached its maximum size, i.e. width, in regards to the number of subinstructions found in an individual fetch packet. A person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have recognized that the end of bundle bits allows compatibility between various VLIW systems and eliminate the slower clock cycles needed for dependency checking

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(O'Connor column 1, lines 36-45 and column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 2), thereby increasing compatibility and speed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the end of bundle bits of O'Connor in the device of Deao to increase compatibility and speed.

18. Referring to claim 3, Deao has taught storing the plurality of instructions in the emulation instruction register in subsequent clock cycles (Deao column 8, lines 28-37; column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; Figure 1; and Figure 11). In regards to Deao, the program memory, element 23 in Figure 1, contains the instructions and, as stated by Deao, it is a design choice for location and type, i.e. registers or cache.

19. Referring to claim 5, Deao has taught loading the plurality of instructions in parallel into the emulation instruction register (Deao column 8, lines 28-37; column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; Figure 1; and Figure 11).

20. Referring to claim 6, Deao has taught providing the second instruction to the decoder after the first instruction is completed (Deao column 15, lines 28-51; column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; Figure 9; and Figure 11).

21. Referring to claim 7, Deao has taught providing the plurality of instructions to the decoder after a first run-test idle state without entering into a second run-test idle state (Deao column 5, lines 12-38).

22. Referring to claim 8, Deao has taught providing the first and second instructions to a digital signal processor (Deao column 15, lines 28-51; column 20, line 58 to column 21, line 2; Table 15; Figure 9; and Figure 11).

23. Referring to claims 11-15, 18-19, 23, and 25, Deao has not explicitly taught

- a. Determining a validity of each of the plurality of instructions before processing by reading bits in each instruction indicating a width of the instruction (Applicant's claims 11, 18, and 23).
- b. Aborting processing of any invalid instructions and loading a next instruction of the plurality of instructions from the instruction register (Applicant's claims 12, 18, and 25).
- c. Loading a next instruction of the plurality of instructions from the instruction register if a no-operation instruction is loaded (Applicant's claims 13 and 19).
- d. Providing the plurality of instructions to the processor a plurality of times without reloading the instruction register (Applicant's claim 14).

24. However, Deao has taught that there must be eight instructions in a fetch packet for the VLIW instructions to match the eight instruction units (Deao column 15, lines 28-51 and Figure 9). O'Connor has taught

- a. Determining a validity of each of the plurality of instructions before processing by reading bits in each instruction indicating a width of the instruction (Applicant's claim 11) (O'Connor Abstract; column 2, line 6-19; column 2, line 53 to column 3, line 9; and Figure 1).
- b. Aborting processing of any invalid instructions and loading a next instruction of the plurality of instructions from the instruction register (Applicant's claim 12) (O'Connor Abstract; column 2, line 6-19; column 2, line 53 to column 3, line 9; and Figure 1).

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- c. Loading a next instruction of the plurality of instructions from the instruction register if a no-operation instruction is loaded (Applicant's claim 13) (O'Connor Abstract; column 2, line 6-19; column 2, line 53 to column 3, line 9; and Figure 1).
- d. Providing the plurality of instructions to the processor a plurality of times without reloading the instruction register (Applicant's claim 14) (O'Connor Abstract; column 2, line 6-19; column 2, line 53 to column 3, line 9; and Figure 1).

25. In regards to O'Connor, the end of bundle bits are like the width bits, since it shows when the VLIW instruction has reached its maximum size, i.e. width, in regards to the number of subinstructions found in an individual fetch packet. A person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have recognized that the end of bundle bits allows compatibility between various VLIW systems and eliminate the slower clock cycles needed for dependency checking (O'Connor column 1, lines 36-45 and column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 2), thereby increasing compatibility and speed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the end of bundle bits of O'Connor in the device of Deao to increase compatibility and speed.

26. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deao et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,970,241 (herein referred to as Deao) in view of Dowling, U.S. Patent Number 6,170,051 (herein referred to as Dowling). Deao has not taught a multiplexer to select between an instruction for the plurality of instructions to send to the processor pipeline. Dowling has taught a multiplexer to select between an instruction for the plurality of instructions to send to the processor pipeline (Dowling column 12, lines 17-21 and Figure 4, element 440). A person of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have recognized that the multiplexer determines which instruction stream each operational unit receives (Dowling column 12, lines 17-21), thereby ensuring that the execution units operate the correct instruction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the multiplexer of Dowling in the device of Deao to ensure correct instruction operation.

Response to Arguments

27. Applicant's arguments filed 14 February 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

28. Applicant's argue in essence on pages 8-10 and 11-12

...Deao neither describes nor suggests the provision of a plurality of instructions to a processor in response to the receipt of the run-test idle state signal. Instead, Deao stops the flow of instructions to Deao's processor when the pipe down procedure is initiated. Such a stoppage of the flow of instructions has nothing to do with the provision of instructions in response to receipt of a run-test idle state signal.

29. This has not been found persuasive. The claim limitations read "providing the plurality of instructions to the processor in response to the receipt of the run-test idle state signal". Deao describes in column 5, lines 16-38 receiving signals, such as what has been labeled in the claim as a "run-test idle state signal", to determine whether instructions are provided to the processor or not. When Deao's signal is negative, i.e. not in the correct setting, the pipeline continues, only when the signal is affirmed is the pipeline halted. So, as long as the signal is negative, pipeline operation continues has normal. Also, there are two separate signals in Deao. The first signal is only for preparation to halt not that the system is halted. Deao in column 5, lines 23-27 states that there are still operations pending in the pipeline. This means that there are still

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instructions that are provided into the system until a second signal is sent. The second signal means the system is fully halted.

30. Applicant argues in essence on pages 10-11

...Deao neither describes nor suggests emulation control logic adapted to control a flow of the plurality of emulation instructions to a processor pipeline following detection of a single run-test idle state. Indeed, pipeline halt is initiated. With the flow of instructions stopped, there is no flow of emulation instructions to a processor pipeline to be controlled.

31. This has not been found persuasive. The claim limitation states “emulation control logic adapted to control a flow of the plurality of emulation instructions to a processor pipeline following detection of a single run-test idle state”. Halting the pipeline is controlling the flow of the pipeline, since no instructions are further executed while the pipeline is stopped. Starting and stopping the pipeline controls the flow of the instructions, since the instructions being executed in the pipeline are either being executed, i.e. continuing processing, or stopped, i.e. in a static state with nothing being done.

32. Applicant argues in essence on pages 13-15

...Since O'Connor's bit only demarks *the end of a variable size instruction bundle*, O'Connor's bit is not found *in* the instruction, nor has it anything to do with either the validity or the size of the instruction.

33. This has not been found persuasive. O'Connor states in his Abstract, lines 4-5 “By detecting if an end of bundle exists in an instruction issue group”; column 2, lines 13-14 “The instructions up to and including the end of bundle are issued in this cycle.”; and in column 2, line 65 to column 3, line 6 all describe that the end of bundle bit or sub-instruction are part of the VLIW instruction. This is *in* the VLIW instruction. The validity and size of the instruction are determined by the end of bundle bits in O'Connor, because these bits denote, first, that the

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instructions past this point are not valid instructions to be executed at that time, and, two, that this is the outer edge of the instruction, i.e. the end of its length. As described in O'Connor in column 1, line 60 to column 2, line 19 and column 2, line 53 to column 3, line 15, the end of bundle bits can only exist when it is known how long that particular VLIW instruction is, i.e. how wide the VLIW instruction is. O'Connor's Figure 1B shows how the end of bundle bits shows where the instruction ends, i.e. that the instruction is 2, 4, or 5 sub-instructions long, and that the sub-instructions beyond the end of bundle bits are invalid for that VLIW instruction. Also, that the fact that the "Width bits define the validity and size of an instruction" is not in the claim. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the width bits define the validity and size of an instruction) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

34. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

35. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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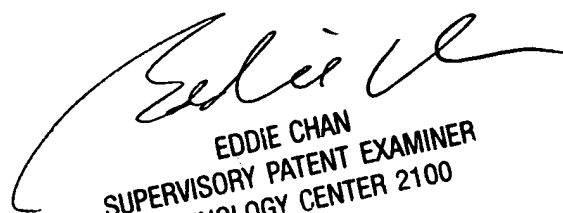
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

36. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aimee J. Li whose telephone number is (571) 272-4169. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:30am-5:00pm.

37. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Chan can be reached on (571) 272-4162. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

38. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AJL
Aimee J. Li
2 May 2005


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